

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 /039 W

-----120357Z 126161 /66

R 111401Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2557

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 1163

GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECIN, ETRD, NU, XK

SUBJECT: NICARAGUA CONCERNED ABOUT BARRIERS ERECTED BY CACM

PARTNERS AGAINST NICARAGUAN GOODS

REF: MANAGUA 447

1. ECONOMICS MINISTER MARTINEZ TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 9 THAT GON HAS PROTESTED TO GUATEMALAN AND SALVADORAN GOVERNMENTS ABOUT OBSTACLES LATTER HAVE ALLEGEDLY PUT BEFORE IMPORTS OF NICARAGUAN AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS. GROUNDS ARE ALLEGEDLY THAT SUCH PRODUCTS MIGHT SOMEHOW TRANSMIT SPORES OF COFFEE RUST (PARA 7, REFTL). MARTINEZ ALSO EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT OVER GOG AND GOES DEMANDS FOR SANITATION CERTIFICATES FOR ALL IMPORTS FROM NICARAGUA. HE REPORTEDLY HINTED STRONGLY THAT PRIVATE INTERESTS IN THOSE TWO COUNTRIES ARE BEHIND THE RESTRICTIVE MEASURES THOSE GOVERNMENTS HAVE APPLIED TO NICARAGUAN EXPORTS. MARTINEZ SINGLED OUT SALVADORAN REFUSAL TO ACCEPT NICARAGUAN PLYWOOD, AN INDUSTRIAL FOREST PRODUCT, AS A PARTICULARLY GALLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INSTANCE OF PURPORTED SALVADORAN OBSTREPEROUSNESS. HE FAILED TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE PLYWOOD COMPANY INVOLVED IS A SOMOZA ENTERPRISE. (COMMENT: SO MUCH FOR PRIVATE INTERESTS.)

2. VICE MINISTER FOR (ECONOMIC) INTEGRATION, DR. LUIS MEJIA, TOLD EMBOFFS MARCH 9 THAT HE WOULD BRING THIS ISSUE BEFORE MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET (CACM) OFFICIALS IN TEGUCIGALPA,

MARCH 10. MEJIA CRITICIZED "ILLOGICAL" STANCE OF SALVADORAN AND GUATEMALAN AUTHORITIES IN NOT ACCEPTING FUMIGATION CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY GON FOR NICARAGUAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BEING SHIPPED TO OR THROUGH THEIR TERRITORIES WHILE, AT SAME TIME THEY ACCEPT SUCH CERTIFICATES FOR COSTA RICAN PRODUCTS IN TRANSIT THROUGH NICARAGUA -- INCLUDING TRANSIT THROUGH AREA OF COFFEE RUST INFESTATION. MEJIA CITED AS CASE IN POINT SALVADORAN REFUSAL TO ACCEPT SHIPMENTS OF NICARAGUAN CORN WHICH GROWN AND BAGGED IN CHINANDEGA AREA OF NORTHERN NICARAGUA FOR SHIPMENT TO SALVADOR ACROSS GULF OF FONSECA AND WHICH NEVER COMES NEAR INFESTED AREA SOUTH OF MANAGUA.

3. MEJIA OPINED, ONLY HALF IN JEST, THAT IF GON FUMIGATION AND SANITATION CERTIFICATES NOT ACCEPTABLE TO GOES AND GOG AUTHORITIES, WHEREAS COSTA RICAN CERTIFICATES ARE ACCEPTABLE UNDER THE ABOVE-CITED CIRCUMSTANCES, THEN NICARAGUA MAY HAVE TO CLOSE ITS BORDERS TO ALL TRANSIT TRAFFIC. THUS, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA WOULD HAVE TO CONDUCT MUCH OF THEIR INTRAREGIONAL TRADE BY AIR OR SEA, HE SAID.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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